



Vol. 51 No. 30

August 5, 2005

Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Network 5/6

The Aviano 5/6 Association is hosting a chiefs' panel 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday for staff selects and above. This is a chance to ask questions and interface with some of Aviano's chiefs. Bring your questions and an appetite to the La Bella Vista. The club will have a buffet available. Aviano's 5/6 Association meets 11 a.m. the second Tuesday of every month.

Friendship Day

The Honorary Squadron Commanders Association is hosting the Fourth Annual Italian-American Friendship Day 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 11 at the municipal park of San Quirino. The event is designed to get the local Italian and American community together for a day of fun, sports, entertainment, music and Italian food. It's a way for the Italian hosts to thank the U.S. base population for all they do to preserve democracy and liberty and strengthen friendship.

The event is open to the whole base population, military, families and friends, and will be free, including food and beverages.



2005 school year registration continues

By David Ruderman
Department of Defense
Dependents School

Registration for the 2005-2006 school year is under way system-wide at DoDDS-Europe schools. While many families registered their children before schools went on summer recess in June, those who have not or those who have more recently arrived in their communities are urged to register their children immediately.

School registration for every child in DoDDS-E schools is an annual requirement by Department of Defense regulation

to determine continued eligibility for school enrollment. Accurate and complete school enrollments assist principals and district superintendents offices in allocating resources to support the DoDDS-E educational mission. It is critical for schools since funding and staffing authorizations are based on enrollment and enrollment projections. Parents are urged to complete their children's registration as soon as possible if they have not done yet.

In-depth descriptions of eligibility and enrollment as well as a selection of forms

— **See Registration, Page 13**

Back to school Edition Back to school Edition Back to school Edition Back to school Edition Back to school

31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	1780.8	753
	-5.8	-3
555th FS goal	664.8	455
	-2.8	-2
510th FS goal	1116.0	298
	-3.0	-1



Back pack pain

Backpacks are a big part of school life but that doesn't mean their heavy loads have to be a big pain in the neck!

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School supplies

It's that time again - back to school shopping. Your list is made simple with Aviano's school supplies guide.

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31st Fighter Wing

Commander's Corner

By Brig. Gen. Robert Yates
31st Fighter Wing commander

World's Finest Warriors - first, I'd like you to take a couple of minutes to read Lt. Col. Pone's article this week and internalize his safety message ... it's worth your time.

Second, I plan to keep this week's article brief because we had ample opportunity to 'talk turkey' at today's combined Commander's Call/Safety Call. The theme of today's commander's call was, "Be proud of what you do, be great at what you do, be the best in the World!" And I mean it!

But I want to slow down for a minute to discuss something else that is of utmost importance to the U.S. Air Force and each of you: your families. I'm speaking specifically of dependent family members.

My message here is simple: take care of your dependents while you're here together and while you're deployed! You'll never regret doing so. Be sure they have a good solid roof over their head, food to eat, and recreational diversions to stay busy. If they don't have any of these, talk to your commander and let him or her help you with the problems you face. There is nothing in this world more important than family so take care of them, world's finest.

And in a slight twist on the same theme, I want to talk to the world's finest senior leaders, commanders, chiefs and first sergeants. My message to you all is simple as well -- take care of your Air Force families while their Air Force members are here, but especially when they're deployed.

Our deployed members can perform up

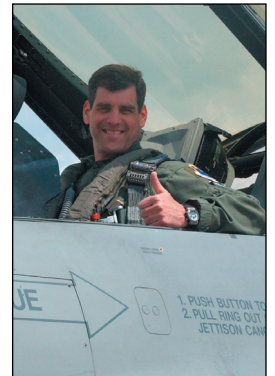
to "World's Finest" standard only if they have a clear conscience and their families are properly cared for. They need your help to look after their dependents when they're deployed downrange. Be sure you have a formal mechanism within your organization to ensure this is happening. Enough said.

Finally, I'd remind you all that we have some special guests arriving this next week. Be sure your workplaces looks sharp, your facilities tight and your uniforms spotless. Bring your manners with you (we call them customs and courtesies in the military) just as you do each and every day. Keep up the great leadership in the areas of driving safety and DUIs. It's evident we're taking care of each other here, and in the end, that's what really counts.

Suprise Announcement: Enjoy your goal day off Aug. 26 Aviano -- you deserve it!

I'm prouder than proud of you all and your service. Keep it up. Take care of your families. Enjoy your weekend and may blessings abound for each of you and yours this weekend.

See y'all around the ranch and then promptly Monday morning, and remember: be proud of what you do, be great at what you do, be the best in the world!



" There is nothing in this world more important than family, so take care of them ... "



Brig. Gen. Robert Yates presents a coin to his shadow Airman, Airman 1st Class Robert Blackburn.

Aviano Airman of the Week

Name: Airman 1st Class Robert Blackburn
Unit: 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, F-16 assistant dedicated crew chief on Aircraft 89-2118
Hometown: Rowlett, TX
Hobbies: Running
Why Joined: For the education and travel opportunities
Accomplishments: "Airman 1st Class Robert Blackburn, was sharp and very professional," said Brig. Gen. Robert Yates. "Since his first week on the job, he has given the impression of feeling very comfortable and safe with maintenance happening out here."

Bates welcomes new year

True North compass concept guides students

Welcome to the Mediterranean District. We proudly serve approximately 7,000 students in three countries: Italy, Spain and Turkey. Our students enjoy unique opportunities to experience modern and ancient cultures, colorful Spanish festivals, Carnivale in Venice, old Roman ruins in Sicily, picturesque mountain villages in Tuscany, and biblical sites, mosques and bazaars in Turkey.

Our schools are fully accredited by the North Central Association of Schools. We have a rigorous and all-inclusive U.S. curriculum that features such courses as Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Army Visual Information Center, Advanced Placement, Honors, Gifted Education, Foreign Languages, Foreign Language Immersion, Corps Information Systems Control Officer Academy and Business Education along with many other subjects.

Students can participate in science fairs, speech and drama events, foreign language clubs, music festivals, geography bees, Math Counts, Odyssey of the Mind, and Knowledge Bowl. They can also compete in a variety of athletic events with regional championships conducted throughout Europe.

We have a diverse student body made up of Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and U.S. Government and Embassy dependents. In addition, we serve children of foreign embassies and businesses. We are extremely proud of our caring and competent teachers who ensure students receive

quality instruction. Pupil/teacher ratios are good across the district and this year, full-day kindergarten is in all elementary schools.

The contributions of our parents, military commanders and service member volunteers enhance a variety of programs that ensure "No Child is Left Behind." All of our schools have mentor programs and it is not unusual to see numerous parents assisting in classroom settings. Our commanders are supportive, attend School Advisory Committee and School Advisory Board meetings and consider our Department of Defense schools a number one community quality of life issue.

This school year the Mediterranean District will continue the theme of "True North: Sustaining the Course." As educators, we continue consulting our professional compass. The value of a compass is that it defines one's direction. Our compass points True North to Student Achievement.

Every issue, every decision and every expenditure of district resources must be judged on the consistency with this directional focus. Our compass is not something we can carry in our pockets; we must keep it in our hearts and minds.

Archie W. Bates

Archie Bates
Mediterranean District
Superintendent

Aviano inclement weather plan

Inclement weather can affect the safe transportation of our children to and from the Department of Defense Dependent Schools here. Inclement weather includes, but is not limited to, heavy rain, snow, black ice and fog. In the event weather conditions create unsafe conditions, the decision to delay or cancel school will be made by the 31st Mission Support Group Commander.

The decision to delay or cancel school may be determined as late as 5:30 a.m. on that school day. If school is delayed, the minimum time delay will be two hours. Inclement weather plans will be announced as early as possible via AFN radio and television. Repeat announcements will be aired every 10-15 minutes. Families who do not receive AFN radio or television should make arrangements with friends, co-workers or neighbors to receive notification of delay or cancellation of school.

For students enrolled in the Aviano Youth Program or Child Development Center, on days that school is delayed, students can be dropped off at the centers.

If you have any questions, call the school liaison office at commercial 0434-30-5261 or DSN 632-5261.

No Vigileer: There will be no Vigileer published Aug. 19 and 26 due to the publisher's holiday. It will print again Sept. 2.

More families qualify for free, reduced lunch program

The Department of Defense provides free or reduced cost meals for eligible students under the National School Lunch Program. Last November, the Under Secretary of Defense, Mr. Charles Abell, signed a memorandum eliminating the housing income from the application process. Under the old regulations, the off-base housing allowance was counted as income, and many families did not qualify for the free or reduced-price meals. That policy change has enabled many families to qualify that were previously excluded.

Beginning Tuesday, parents may apply for the free or reduced lunch program with the school liaison officer. The application process is simple.

Application packets are available in the elementary and middle/high school offices and also on the flight line at the 31st Mission Support Group. Fill out the application in its entirety, attach supporting documentation (latest LES), and place it in the box located by the applications. Then, the school liaison officer will review the application and notify the parents of the results by phone or e-mail. Once the family qualifies for the program, a letter authorizing them to participate will be

sent to the Base Exchange cashier's cage.

Be sure to read the cover letter carefully and fill out all information on the form. If applications are not completed, including signature and date, they will not be processed. Families are also responsible to notify the school liaison office if there is an increase of \$50 or more in their monthly income during the year. Those deemed ineligible for the program may reapply anytime during the year, if there is a reduction of income or an increase in household size. For more information, call the school liaison office at Ext. 5261.

Family size	Reduced	Free
2	\$2,276	\$1,599
3	\$2,854	\$2,006
4	\$3,432	\$2,412
5	\$4,010	\$2,818
6	\$4,588	\$3,224
7	\$5,167	\$3,631
8	\$5,745	\$4,037
Additional member:	\$579	\$407

Test results show DoD students near 2006 targets

Dr. Joseph Tafoya, Director, Department of Defense Education Activity announced July 17 the organization's 2005 standardized test results for the TerraNova 2nd Edition.

The results show that DoDEA students' average scores remain substantially higher than the national average in all subject areas (reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science) for grades third-eleventh. Thirty-seven of the 45 subtest scores were 10-20 points above the national average; six subtest scores were 21-27 points higher; and two subtest scores were 9 points higher.

In 2002, DoDEA students were tested using the TerraNova 2nd Edition for the first time to establish baseline results for the system so student achievement could be compared from one year to the next. DoDEA has successfully used the 2001-2006 Community Strategic Plan to raise education standards and advance students to higher levels of achievement. The standardized test provides DoDEA results that can be compared to a sample group of students across the United States.

The 2001-2006 CSP renews and refines the organization's commitment to helping all students succeed by monitoring and measuring student progress through standardized tests. In addition, the CSP requires the reporting of student data by the percentage of students within each national percentile quarter to ensure a more accurate assessment of the academic achievement of all students.

The 2001-2006 CSP has set the following high and challenging goals: Seventy-five percent of all students will perform in the top two national percentile quarters on a standardized, norm-referenced assessment ("At the Standard" and "Above the Standard" performance levels). Fewer than 8 percent will perform at the bottom quarter level ("Below the Standard" performance level).

From 2002-2005, DoDEA made significant gains by increasing the percent of students in the "Above the Standard" and "At the Standard" levels by one point in the reading and social studies components, two points in the language arts and mathematics components, and four points in the science component.

For additional information, e-mail Dr. Janet Rope, the Accountability Administrator, Education Division, Department of Defense Education Activity at: janet.rope@hq.dodea.edu or call at (USA): (703) 588-3118

DoDEA has also been successful in decreasing the percent of students whose scores are in the below the standard level by one point in mathematics, science and social studies. DoDEA has met the 2006 goal in language arts by reducing the percentage of students in the below the standard performance level to 8 percent or less.

DoDEA is comprised of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe and the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific, serving dependents of military and civilian employees in Europe and the Pacific, respectively, and the Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools, serving military dependents in the United States and her territories.

Life Support: Aviano's Red Cross Center seeks volunteers. To volunteer or for more information, call Ext. 5576.

Don't let backpacks become a pain in the neck

Backpacks are a popular and practical way for children and teenagers to carry schoolbooks and supplies. When used correctly, backpacks can be a good way to carry the necessities of the school day. They are designed to distribute the weight of the load among some of the body's strongest muscles.

However, backpacks that are too heavy or are worn incorrectly can cause problems for children and teenagers. Improperly used backpacks may injure muscles and joints. This can lead to severe back, neck and shoulder pain, as well as posture problems. Share these guidelines to help your family use backpacks safely.

Choose the right backpack. Look for the following:

- Wide, padded shoulder straps – narrow straps can dig into shoulders. This can



cause pain and restrict circulation.

- Two shoulder straps - backpacks with one shoulder strap that runs across the body doesn't distribute weight evenly.

- Padded back - protects against sharp edges on objects inside the pack and increases comfort.

- Waist strap – helps distribute the weight of a heavy

load more evenly.

- Rolling backpack – This type of backpack may be a good choice for students who must tote a heavy load. Remember that rolling backpacks still must be carried up stairs. They may be difficult to roll in snow.

To prevent injury when using a backpack, do the following:

- Always use both shoulder

straps. Slinging a backpack over one shoulder can strain muscles. Wearing a backpack on one shoulder may increase curvature of the spine.

- Tighten the straps so that the pack is close to the body. The straps should hold the pack two inches above the waist.

- Pack lightly. The backpack should never weigh more than 10 to 20 percent of the student's total body weight.

- Organize the backpack to use all of its compartments. Pack heavier items closest to the center of the back.

- Stop often at school lockers, if possible. Do not carry all of the books needed for the day.

- Bend using both knees, when bending down. Do not bend over at the waist when wearing or lifting a heavy backpack. (Information provided by www.aap.org)

Aviano Elementary School Supply Lists

In order for students to be prepared on the first day of school, parents can purchase the following basic educational supplies for their children. All items are available at the Aviano Base Exchange.

Kindergarten:

- 2 packs of beginners pencils
- 4 glue sticks
- 1 box of washable markers
- 1 pack of skinny crayons
- 1 pack of big crayons
- 1 large box of tissues
- 3 pocket folders
- 1 soft pink rubber eraser
- Bath towel
- Paint shirt

1st Grade:

- 2 boxes of 24 crayons.
- 1 pair of round point scissors size (8 pan)

- 4 large glue stick
- 1 bottle of glue (not gel)
- 1 package #2 wooden pencils
- 1 standard eraser
- 1 package washable markers
- 1 water color set
- 1 large box of tissue
- 2 pocket folders

2nd Grade:

- Crayons – box of 24
- Package #2 pencils
- Round point scissors (8 pan)
- 1 large glue stick
- Erasers

Zippered pencil/supply bag for desk supplies (not box)

- 1 large box of tissue
- Black composition book
- Colored markers
- Colored pencils
- 3 plain folders (bottom pockets only)
- 2 folders

3rd Grade:

- #2 pencils and pens as needed
- Crayons – 24 pack (non-toxic)
- Scissors
- Markers (thin)
- 4 pocket folders
- 1 large box of tissue
- Loose-leaf notebook paper - wide rule
- Colored pencils
- 1 bottle of glue (not gel)
- Composition notebooks
- Fat markers (washable)
- Big eraser

4th Grade:

- Crayons box of 24
- 1 package of #2 pencils
- 1 large package leaf paper or white ruled tablet – wide ruled paper
- Colored markers
- Erasers
- Round point scissors (8 pan)

Glue

- 1 large box of tissue
 - 1 box of colored pencils
 - 4 pocket folders
 - 1 black composition notebook
 - 2 glue sticks
 - 1 package of 8 colored markers
- ### 5th Grade:
- 1 box of crayons
 - Pencils and erasers
 - 1 5-subject notebook
 - 1 red pen
 - 1 pair of 7" student scissors
 - 1 set of colored pencils
 - 1 set of narrow colored markers
 - 1 set of broad colored markers
 - Glue sticks
 - 1 pencil zipper pouch
 - 1 full size box of tissue
 - 2 plastic folders with pockets
 - 2 packages loose leaf wide-ruled paper
 - Highlighter

Backpacks large enough to hold 9x12 folders are needed for all students. Additional materials may be requested by your child's teacher at the beginning of school and/or as the year progresses.

Tips for helping children learn

Show your child that School is important. Encourage your child's active interest in school.

- Emphasize the importance of regular attendance at school and arriving on time.
- Ask your child what he/she is doing in school.
- Show a positive interest in the activities, lessons, and tests brought home.
- Your child has usually done his/her best and wants to share accomplishments.
- Listen to and talk with your child. Many children who disrupt class need attention.
- Provide a quiet study area at home and a special time for studying.
- Encouragement on your part will help your child develop good study habits and build confidence for schoolwork. Be sure to turn off the television set.

• Take your child to the library. Pick out books that you can share with each other. Read to your child and have him/her read to you. Reading to each other promotes further reading.

• Help your child be selective about television viewing. Encourage physical activity after school.

• Encourage your child to accept responsibility for classroom assignments as well as small chores at home. In this way, your child will feel he/she has had an active part in influencing his/her world.

• Help your child feel good about his/her accomplishments. A positive self image can last a lifetime.

• Give your child the experience of handling money and telling time.

• Help your child decide what is appropriate to wear.

• Clothing should not inhibit ability to learn and play safely.

• Show your support for teachers and the school principal. Promoting an atmosphere of respect helps reduce discipline problems at school.

• Be a model at respecting other people's rights and property. Please encourage children to do likewise.

• Make sure your child does homework. Look over their homework each night. Ask your child to explain what he or she is learning. Make sure that assignments are completed. If possible, find a quiet place for your child to study and set aside time each evening for homework.

• Help your child develop healthy life style by providing a nutritious lunch, avoid sending high sugar snacks and drinks.

Playground rules

• Kicking or pushing others is not what Aviano Elementary students do

• Don't run or jump off any equipment and no pushing or playing tag on or under any of the equipment

• Go in one direction on the monkey bars and do not grab the legs of someone on the monkey bars

• No jumping off the slides

• Don't run or jump off any equipment and no pushing or playing tag on or under any of the equipment

Other suggestions:

• Tag should be touch only and played in designated area

• Everyone is welcome to play in all games, no exclusions

• No high-kicking

• Listen to and respect directions given to you by the adults in charge.

Middle school extends lessons

Susan Pope

Aviano Middle School principal

Welcome to Aviano Middle School. Every year provides us a new opportunity to do better than the year before. As educators we constantly strive to improve our performance in helping your child be successful.

This year we have adjusted the schedule to provide longer periods to allow for a deeper development of concepts. We have also been fortunate, with the new schedule, to have two seminar periods, which translates to two advisory times. Advisory is a key component in the middle school as it builds in time to impact the non-academic areas such as responsibility, social issues, test taking skills that have such a great impact on students at this age.

As we begin this new school year, please take a moment to sit with your child and discuss the goals that you

and your child have set for the coming school year. I am sure you will find them very similar to those of our school. The goals of the staff and faculty are to plan activities that meet the needs of the students, keep the lines of communication open between parents, school and community and to maintain high academic standards.

We consider working with the middle aged child a great adventure. Your support and understanding as we travel through the adventure is crucial. The staff and I encourage your comments and support, as I know we are all solution-oriented people who want the very best for our students.

This adventure should not be traveled alone. Please help us keep the lines of communication open by contacting us when you have questions and/or concerns regarding your child's progress. Together we can do a better job of ensuring success.

School supplies

All students need the following supplies:

- 1 large three-ring binder (zip up kind works great)
- 5 dividers with three holes
- 8 x 11 lined loose leaf notebook paper with 3 holes
- 2 single subject spiral notebooks

- Pens (blue, black, red)
- No. 2 Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Pocket folders for each subject

- Pencil case (three hole to put in binder)
- Set of highlighter pens (2 different colors)

- 1 Box of tissues
- Scissors
- Glue
- Erasers

All students should have a good dictionary and thesaurus.

Aviano school advisory board works to improve student life

The Aviano School Advisory Board is a dedicated group of parents, educators, and base officials focused on making our Aviano school system a great place for students.

We can't make this happen alone. It takes every parent to be involved in their children's well-being and education for the school advisory board to succeed. Open board meetings are set up several times throughout the school year to hear concerns and suggestions on many issues. Please read below for more information and how you can get involved.

The board is an advisor group to the DoDDS Mediterranean District Superintendent and installation commander on issues concerning our schools and our children. The board works for all three Aviano schools and the 1,300+ students that attend.

The board consists of parents of Aviano school students, one representative each from the elementary, middle and high schools, the installation commander or designee, district superintendent or designee, principals, the school liaison officer and selected senior high school students.

The school advisory board discusses topics like the school environment, transportation, dependent behavior and standards of conduct and discipline, military policy pertaining to schools, student activities, school policy and any matter impacting more than one installation school.

School advisory councils exist for each of the three schools. If an issue affects more than one school, the SAB works to resolve the issue for all three schools.

For people who want to get involved in the board, attendance at any open advisory board is highly encourage to hear concerns and ideas. Meeting times, dates and locations will be announced and or advertised through the school newsletters, school e-mailing addresses, AFN, and the Vigileer.

For more information, call Paul Moore, the school liaison officer at Ext. 5261 or the school advisory board vice-president Senior Master Sgt. Tim Pratt at Ext. 7730 or e-mail him at timothy.pratt@aviano.af.mil. (*Information provided by Senior Master Sgt. Tim Pratt*)

Teachers offer educational tips

Like all good schools, Aviano Middle School is constantly improving. Our improvement plan consists of promoting critical thinking skills within the student body and developing programs and teaching skills teachers can us to facilitate this goal.

The teachers and staff at Aviano Middle School recognize the tremendous influence parents have on the teaching and learning processes and they want to pass on some tips that will encourage critical thinking throughout the year.

- Use language and questions that ill trigger deeper thought.

- Give your child information to find a solution

instead of just telling him or her the answer.

- Encourage looking at issues and situations from many points of view and discuss.

- Ask your children to think and tell you about their own thinking.

- Help your child to use precise words instead of generalizations

- Use "thinking words" such as compare analyze predict, classify, conclude, and give evidence.

- Allow your children to look at a problem, decide what is needed and act.

- Let your child see you trying new things, learning, growing and thinking through problems. (*Aviano Middle School*)

Aviano Middle School core values

- Learning should be a positive experience for all
- A positive school climate where everyone feels safe and valued and respect is basic to learning
- All children have the right to learn
- Learning is an active experience, not a spectator sport
- Our goal is to develop lifelong, independent thinkers
- All students have areas of strengths and can learn by example, observations and practical application
- Learning is most meaningful when it's connected to a student's own interests
- Students learn at different rates and with different learning styles

AHS creates block schedule for 2005-2006

New program aims to increase student achievement

Doug Emery

Aviano High School principal

Aviano High School students will notice a change in their schedules this school year - the school is moving from 45-minute classes to a block schedule.

The research is clear in stating that the students' retention of material is better when they actively engage in their learning. Students construct meaning for themselves from the content of what they are learning in many ways.

By having students write about what they are learning, talk about it, produce something from the information, teach someone else what they know, create something new from the information or justify their conclusions they are far more likely to retain the material. They are also likely to retain and understand the concepts at a more complex level of thinking. These kinds of activities take more time.

A long-standing criticism of the seven or eight period day is that there is little opportunity for students to delve deeply into subjects when the class time is short. A current criticism of the American curriculum is that it has become a mile wide and an inch deep. As a result of the constraints of short classes, many teachers are only able to have students recall or respond to the facts that students need to remember.

In a regular 47 minute class, after taking roll and doing start up activities as well as ending activities like putting things away, the time available for instruction and student work is less than the time available after these tasks are completed in a 85 minute class.

Although in the long run there is slightly less class time with block schedules, I expect the quality and productivity of learning to improve. Because we have less time taken for starting and ending

class and more time in one block class, the teachers will have the opportunity to provide students more complex and engaging work. In a longer class period there is more time for the teacher to make sure each student understands, and more time for each student to ask the teacher for help or clarification.

With longer class periods there is time to take the content taught and synthesize the material, to recreate it in new forms, to solve problems, to draw analogies, to make comparisons and contrasts, to have students create, or to use other higher order thinking skills.

There is also more time for teachers to assess what the students already know, to activate their prior learning, and to have students summarize what they have learned at the end of the class. Research on effective teaching says that all of these activities improve the rate and retention of learning.

Providing the opportunity for higher level thinking through questioning using activators and summarizers is our school improvement strategy for improving student achievement.

With our school improvement strategy in mind, I believe that the opportunities available in longer class periods better match what we are trying to accomplish than does our current schedule.

A secondary gain of this change will be improving school climate. The number one reason that students receive discipline at Aviano High School is due to being tardy too often to class.

Discipline for tardiness occurs on average six times as frequently as any other discipline referral. By reducing the number of times students are in passing from class to class, we will reduce the opportunities for them to be late. Most discipline events occur during passing time.

When we went to two days of block

schedule we reduced tardiness by approximately 20 percent in the first year - the 2002-2003 school year. This year we are doing better and if the current rate continues we will have an improvement of 30 percent over the last school year with a full seven period day schedule.

When we go to four days of block, I expect that we will see further reductions in discipline referrals for students being late. Our overall discipline referrals have decreased since we started the block schedule.

Because we will add a second seminar to the schedule, we will need to make sure that we establish procedures and expectations that ensure that this time is primarily devoted to academics.

Currently, our seminar period begins with 20 minutes of silent reading. The second seminar will allow our students additional time to get help or to complete their work inside the school day. We will need to address the use of seminar time and ensure that it remains time well spent.

I am pleased to report that since the decision was made to move to block a proposal to change the placement of seminar to first period was made and adopted. This was suggested and adopted because it will lessen the impact of late busses, allow students to get help with homework, two days a week, before it is due and to address the slow wake up experienced by many teenagers.

Another suggestion to schedule students taking Advanced Placement into a scheduled seminar time with their AP teacher is being studied for feasibility and will likely be adopted.

We will continue to study and work the seminar time. We will also review this schedule at the end of next school year to determine the benefits and detriments to determine whether or not we should continue with this schedule.

Time management tips

Does it seem like there's never enough time in the day to get everything done? Feel like you're always running late? Here are some tips for taking control of your time and organizing your life.

- Make a "To Do" list every day - Put things that are most important at the top and do them first. If it's easier, use a planner to track all of your tasks.
- Use spare minutes wisely - Get some reading done on the bus ride home from school, for example.
- It's okay to say "no." - If your boss asks you to work on a Thursday night and you have a final exam the next morning, realize that it's okay to say no.

- Find the right time - You'll work more efficiently if you figure out when you do your best work. For example, if your brain handles math better in the afternoon, don't wait to do it until late at night.

- Review your notes every day - You'll reinforce what you've learned, so you need less time to study. You'll also be ready if your teacher calls on you or gives a pop quiz.

- Get a good night's sleep - Running on empty makes the day seem longer and your tasks seem more difficult.

- Communicate your schedule to others - If phone calls are proving to be a distraction, tell your friends that you take social calls from 7 to 8 p.m.

AES open house

The Aviano Elementary School hosts an open house for new and returning students and their parents Aug. 26. Students with last names beginning with an A - L may come 9 - 10:30 a.m., and M - Z 10:30 a.m. - noon.

AMS orientation

Aviano Middle School hosts orientation for students and parents Aug. 26. Sixth grade students meet 8 a.m., seventh grade meet at 10:30 a.m. and eighth grade at 1 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Students will receive agendas, handbooks, computer passwords and school photo schedules. Parents and students will also have the opportunity to tour the school and meet teachers and staff. For more information, call Odessa Mangosing at Ext. 5777.

AHS open house

Aviano High School is hosting an open house noon Aug. 29. Students will assemble in the cafeteria at

12:10 p.m. and parents will meet up with their children at 12:25. Class visits take place 12:30 to 2:35 p.m.

College scholarships

The Aviano Top 3 Association is taking applications for college scholarships from Monday through Aug. 19. Scholarships are open to all active duty members and their dependents. Stop by the base education office or e-mail john.roth@aviano.af.mil for an application form.

College registration

The University of Maryland University College-Europe begins Term 1 undergraduate and graduate registration Monday through Aug. 19. Students can earn certificates, associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees in a broad selection of disciplines. Additionally, UMUC-Europe accepts a variety of financial aid sources, including military tuition assistance, VA benefits, employer tuition remission, loans, and grants. UMUC-Europe also offers a

2005-2006 School Calendar

Aug. 29 - Begin first quarter and first semester
Sept. 5 - Labor Day - No school
Oct. 10 - Columbus Day - No school
Nov. 3 - End of first quarter
Nov. 4 - No school for students - teacher work day
Nov. 7 - Begin second quarter
Nov. 11 - Veterans Day - No school
Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving - No school
Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving Recess Day - No school
Dec. 19 - Winter recess begins
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day - No school
Jan. 1 - New Year's Day - No school
Jan. 3 - Instruction resumes
Jan. 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No school
Jan. 26 - End of second quarter and first semester
Jan. 27 - No school for students - teacher work day
Jan. 30 - Begin third quarter and second semester
Feb. 20 - Presidents' Day - No school
April 6 - End of third quarter
April 7 - No school for students - teacher work day
April 10 - Begin spring recess
April 17 - Instruction resumes, begin fourth quarter
May 29 - Memorial Day - No school
June 15 - End of fourth quarter and second semester
June 16 - No school for students, teacher work day. Last day for non-administrative educator personnel

variety of scholarships to help pay for courses. Term 1 classes run Aug. 22 through Oct. 15. For more information, call Cecilee Allen at DSN: 370-6762 or 49 (0) 6221-378189.

Child development

Learn more about child development and behavior, discipline, ages and stages at parent classes. Meet with other parents of children aged 2 to 12 years for support and networking. Class meets in four sessions 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and continuing Aug. 16, 23 and 30 in Bldg. 108, at Area One. Call Family Advocacy at Ext. 5667 to sign up.

Online tuition

Effective Monday through Aug. 22, military students must use the On-Line Tuition Assistance Program. On-

Line Tuition Assistance can be accessed through the Air Force Portal. Once in the Air Force Portal, students must go into "Careers" and open the Air Force Virtual Education Center (AFVEC). The Aviano Education Office needs all military personnel to ensure they have an Air Force Portal Account before registration begins. Call Ext. 5330 for more information.

Free child care

Aviano community members ready to PCS or who have just arrived with a child at least 1 year of age are entitled to free childcare. The Childcare for PCS Certificate is good for 60 days prior to leaving and 60 days after arriving at a new duty station. Call Ext. 5407 for more information.

Tips for back to school spending

- Make a list of what is needed by category; i.e. clothing, books, supplies, sports, music etc.
- Use layaway plans for clothing, supplies, etc. when possible and practical.
- Start watching for sales flyers.
- Consider not buying all the needed clothing initially because you may have to replace them all at the same time.
- Avoid using credit cards to spend income not yet earned.
- Establish a spending plan timetable over several weeks or months.
- Encourage children to become independent and not "go with the flow" and avoid expensive trendy items.
- Allow some flexibility so as to take advantage of sales and bargains.

Registration, from page 1

needed to register students are on the DoDDS-E Web site at <http://www.eu.dodea.edu/enroll.htm>.

School principals and school office staffs across Europe are working diligently to ensure that the annual registration process is efficient and customer-service oriented. Some paperwork can be prepared in advance, but all parents will need to visit their children's schools to complete the registration process.

Parents should call their children's schools for detailed instructions regarding documentation required for registration. DoDDS-E schools, except those in Bahrain, Volkel, Geilenkirchen and schools in the Benelux, will open for instruction Aug. 29.

For more information and assistance with the registration process, parents should visit their school's Web site or contact their local school office.

La Leche League

The La Leche League of Aviano meets 10 a.m. Monday in the Chapel Education Center, Area One Bldg. 168. The group welcomes pregnant and breastfeeding women. The informal discussion will focus on avoiding difficulties and breastfeeding. Babies and children always welcome at meetings. LLL provides information and support on all aspects of breastfeeding. For more information, call 0434-75-5606 or 348-242-5373 or e-mail LLLAviano@yahoo.com.

Combined briefings

The next Palace Front and Palace Chase briefing is 2 p.m. Monday in the 31st Mission Support Group Conference Room, Bldg. 1403, in the Flightline area. The Palace Front briefing is a mandatory requirement for all re-enlistment-eligible Airmen who are electing to separate. Airmen interested in early separation through Palace Chase can also attend this briefing.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Janet Boyles at Ext. 4919.

Housing closure

The Housing Management Office will be closed Aug. 15 for an Italian holiday.

Hearing tests

All hearing tests have moved from Area One to Flight Medicine in Area F. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Bell at Ext. 5320.

Dental exams

Pediatric dental exams at the Base Chapel Annex are suspended during the months of July, August, and September. The 31st Dental Squadron is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, except federal holidays and wing down days. Emergency care is available 24-hours a day, seven days-a-week by calling Ext. 5000. Appointments for comprehensive dental care can be made by calling Ext. 5060. Children under the age of twelve must be attended to at all times. Dental appointments

Summer festival

The Aviano 37th International Folklore Festival runs Saturday through Aug. 16 in downtown Aviano in front of Hotel Posta. Events include folklore dancing groups from Aviano, Greece, Russia, Serbia, Mexico, Hungary and Latina (Italy) performing Aug. 11, 14 and 15 beginning at 9:15 p.m. Entry fee is five Euro. Food booths will be open for dinner throughout all events.

Other free events include:

- 9 p.m. Sunday - The Popovic - dance music
- 9 p.m. Monday - Juan Garrido - Latin American music
- 8 p.m. Tuesday - Popular games
- 9 p.m. Tuesday - Toni Merlot with the band The Beat-les
- 9 p.m. Wednesday - Singing Ambassador - Choir from the University of the Philippines
- 9 p.m. Aug. 13 - "Valter Lovisa" Orchestra and dance
- 6 p.m. Aug. 16 - United Games - U.S. Air Force vs. Italian air force soccer game at Aviano Parish soccer field
- 7 p.m. Aug. 16 - United Games Soccer prize ceremony takes place in front of Hotel Posta in Aviano. Event includes free American BBQ and Western country music performed by Whisky River Band, jumping castle, horse shoe games, volley ball and bocce ball and other entertainment.

ments will be re-scheduled for patients with unattended children below the age of twelve.

FTAC leader needed

The First Term Airmen Center seeks a highly motivated staff sergeant or senior airman (ALS graduate) to fill the position of an FTAC Team Leader. The position begins Aug. 15 and lasts 120 days. The new Team Leader will get a two-week turnover with the departing team leader. Team leaders transition first-term Airmen from a training-oriented focus to a mission oriented environment and play a critical and visible role in the day-to-day operations of the FTAC. It's desirable but not mandatory that team leaders possess knowledge in computer applications (Word, Excel, Access and Power Point). Applicants must get supervisor and squadron permission. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Victoriano Rodriguez Ext. 5402.

Harley barbecue

The Aviano Harley Owners Group Chapter is sponsoring a free barbecue for all ID card-holding Harley-Davidson riders Aug. 14 in Area D. The festivities start

with a ride at 10:30 a.m. at Area D. The ride will finish back at Area D at 12:30 p.m. for food, drinks, biker games and a raffle. For more information, e-mail wayne.parks@aviano.af.mil.

Aviano Thrift Shop

The Aviano Thrift Shop is under new leadership and seeks motivated volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help sort and price items, stock shelves, and assist customers with donations and consignments. Experience is not required. High school volunteers are welcomed; hours can be used for both school and scholarship applications. The shop is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Call Ext. 5428 during open hours for more information.

Recycling rules

Aviano members are reminded to follow Italian recycling laws. This is a high PCS season and many members have large items that are not being recycled correctly. Airmen are encouraged to contact their local town's recycling centers for proper procedures. For more information, contact the environmental flight at Ext. 5394.

Reel Times

Today, 5 p.m. - "Kicking and Screaming" Rated PG - Phil had to put up all his life with his overly competitive father. When Phil decides to coach his 10-year-old son's soccer team, he goes head-to-head for the league championship against his father. Starring: Will Ferrell, Robert Duvall

Today, 8 p.m. - "Batman Begins" Rated PG-13 - The origins of the Batman legend and the Dark Knight's emergence as a force for good in Gotham. Starring: Christian Bale, Ken Watanabe

Saturday, 2 p.m. - "Kicking and Screaming" Rated PG

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "Crash" Rated R - A housewife and her DA husband. A Persian store owner. Two police detectives. A television director and his wife. A Mexican locksmith. Two car-jackers. A rookie cop. A middle-aged Korean couple. They all live in Los Angeles. And, in the next 36 hours, they will all collide. Starring: Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "Batman Begins" Rated PG-13

Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. - "Teacher's Pet" Rated G - Spot is a dog who can talk and read. Posing as a human, he sneaks into school with his master Leonard. Animated

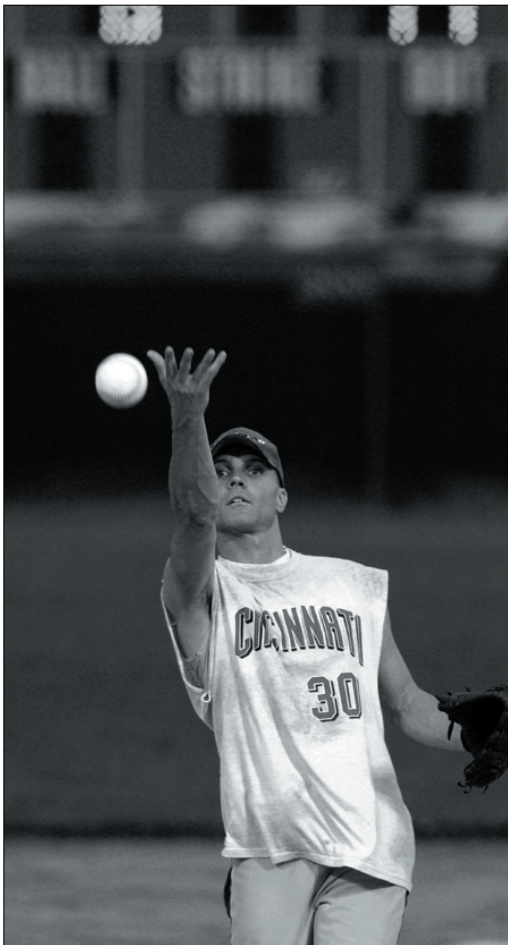
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "Crash" Rated R

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "Batman Begins" Rated PG-13
(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Security Forces slide into victory



31st Security Forces Squadron team member Aaron Thomas hits a home run during game two of the base intramural softball championship here July 29.



Ryan Feltz, 31st Security Forces Squadron, pitches to the 31st Maintenance Squadron team during the base intramural softball championship.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Fly Bys

Cheerleading camp

Kaiserslautern High School will host a Universal Cheer Association cheerleading camp Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 2 through 4. The event, is open to all prospective high school cheerleaders across Europe. Cost is \$95, payable at the door and all schools sponsoring a cheer team in the fall are encouraged to attend.

Beach volleyball

The men's and women's Aviano beach volleyball open tournament runs Sept. 8 through 11 in downtown Aviano. There is no entry fee and interested participants may contact Jessica Jackson at the Dragon Fitness Center at Ext. 7459.

Open volleyball

Aviano volleyball buffs are invited to open gym volleyball from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays at the Aviano Dragon Fitness Center. The entire gym will be open to volleyball players during those hours. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

Start smart soccer

Online registration for the Aviano Youth Center's start smart soccer program for 3 and 4 year olds runs through Aug. 26. Cost is \$45 and includes a youth T-shirt and youth soccer package. For more information, call Ext. 8713.

Youth program soccer

Online registration for the Aviano Youth Center's regular soccer program runs through Aug. 26. Cost is \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members. For more information, call Ext. 8713.

Kuk Sool Won

The Aviano Community Center offers youth and adult Kuk Sool Won classes. Youth classes are: 6 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays; adult classes are: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. For prices and more information, call Ext. 5479.

AHS fall sports schedule

Football/Cheerleading*

- Sept. 17 -- Vilseck (away)
- Sept. 24 -- Bamberg (home)
- Oct. 1 -- Ansbach (away)
- Oct. 8 -- Vicenza (home)
- Oct. 15 -- Hohenfels (away)
- Oct. 22 -- Playoffs
- Oct. 29 -- Playoffs
- Nov. 4 -- Championship

*Cheerleaders do not travel to all away games

Volleyball

- Sept. 17 -- Vicenza, Livorno, Milan (home)
- Sept. 24 -- Milan (away)
- Oct. 1 -- AOSR (Sigonella) (away)
- Oct. 8 -- Vicenza (home)
- Oct. 15 -- Naples, Patch, Vilseck (home)
- Oct. 22 -- Naples (away)
- Oct. 29 -- Vicenza, (Milan, Livorno) (away)
- Nov. 3-5 -- Championship

Cross Country

- Sept. 17 -- Vicenza, Livorno, Milan (home)
- Sept. 24 -- Milan (MMI) (away)
- Oct. 1 -- AOSR (Sigonella, MMI, Naples, Milan) (away)
- Oct. 8 -- Vicenza (home)
- Oct. 15 -- Naples, Patch, Vilseck, Vicenza, Livorno, MMI (home)
- Oct. 22 -- Naples (away)
- Oct. 29 -- Championship

Drive to arrive ...

Unsafe driving habits cause accidents

By Lt. Col. Adrian Pone
31st Fighter Wing Safety Office chief

Here in Aviano we see four primary causes for vehicle mishaps. They are speeding, unsafe passing, failure to yield and inattentive or distracted driving. There is some bad and good news in this article. The bad news is that we continue to have too many major motor vehicle accidents -- we average two to three major wrecks per week. And in the majority of these wrecks our 31st Fighter Wing drivers were at fault.

However, there is some good news, and that is Aviano motorists are driving more safely. To validate this, I compared our January through June 2004 MMVA rate to our January through June 2005 MMVA rate; 102 MMVAs last year down to 63 for this year -- a 38 percent reduction.

In addition our at-fault accident rate dropped by percent. But as far as I am concerned one accident is still too many. So how do we fix our driving problem?

Limiting speed is one of the most basic ways to avoid getting into an accident. First, respect the legal speed limit. My safety staff and I frequently patrol Via Menegoz (also known as the "off-limits" road). We frequently observe Americans driving at high rates of speed on that road. We have reported a few speeders - the rest of you are forewarned ... our "patrols" will continue.

Second, adjust your speed based on the road condition -- if the roads are wet, slow down. Last month, an Airman and his passenger were seriously injured when their vehicle hydro-planed on the Autostrada. Had the Airman adjusted his speed to the road conditions, he probably would have avoided an accident.

Finally, if you think speeding to and from work saves a lot of time, think again. In the table I have included data showing that you really don't save that much time speeding while you do significantly increase your chances of mishap.

As you can see, you will only save about 2-5 minutes by speeding. And your reaction time will be nearly cut in half. Is saving 2-5 minutes worth your life? Is it worth the life of another?

Unsafe passing also accounts for numerous accidents. As most of us know, passing in the local area can be very dangerous. Blind turns and narrow roads make passing a challenge here in Northern Italy. For these reasons you

can't apply the same passing techniques here as you did back in the states.

As a general rule I don't pass unless on the Autostrada. After 24 years of driving I have come to the following conclusion ... I can wait a few extra minutes to get to my destination. But if I do pass I always check 12 o'clock (look in front to ensure enough distance to safely pass), check 6 o'clock (look behind to ensure nobody is already in the passing lane) and then I pass. I also look for blind entry points at driveway intersections. If these exist, I avoid passing. Sounds simple but our 31st FW motorists often fail to apply these basic passing principles.

Failure to yield is yet another accident cause and usually occurs when motorists fail to maintain the proper distance behind the preceding vehicle. Last month an Airman rear-ended a car right here on base. His car plowed into one car causing that car to plow into another. Several folks were injured. If this Airman had maintained the proper distance he probably would have avoided the accident. He also failed to keep his eyes on the road - a sure case of inattentive driving. As a reminder for proper distance, use the three-second rule as they teach us in driver's education.

The final accident cause - inattentive or distracted driving - occurs for a number of reasons. Reasons such as fooling with the radio, talking on the cell phone, putting on make-up, day-dreaming or falling asleep at the wheel.

Bottom line is this: anytime you are not 100 percent focused on the task at hand, you are by definition "inattentive or distracted" thus making you more prone to accident. We are driving

Origination	Destination	Commute time @ speed limit	Commute time @ 30 KPH over the speed limit
Area-2	Area-F gates	5 minutes	3-4 minutes
Roveredo	Area-F gates	5 minutes	3-4 minutes
Maniago	Area-F gates	20 minutes	15 minutes
Pordenone	Area-F gates	15 minutes	11 minutes
Sacile	Area-F gates	15 minutes	11 minutes
Vigonovo	Area-F gates	10 minutes	7 minutes

more safely in Aviano but we still have lots of work to do. The vast majority of our members drive responsibly, unfortunately a few individuals continue to get into accidents due to their negligent driving habits.

For those negligent drivers, I would like to remind you that avoiding a mishap is easy if you make a commitment to driving safety. Remember: 1) Slow down 2) Pass only if absolutely necessary as passing in Italy can be very hazardous. 3) Do not tailgate ... use the 3 second rule. 4) Devote 100 percent of your attention on driving - keep your eyes on the road and do not let yourself get distracted with cell phones and other devices.



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send kudos to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.